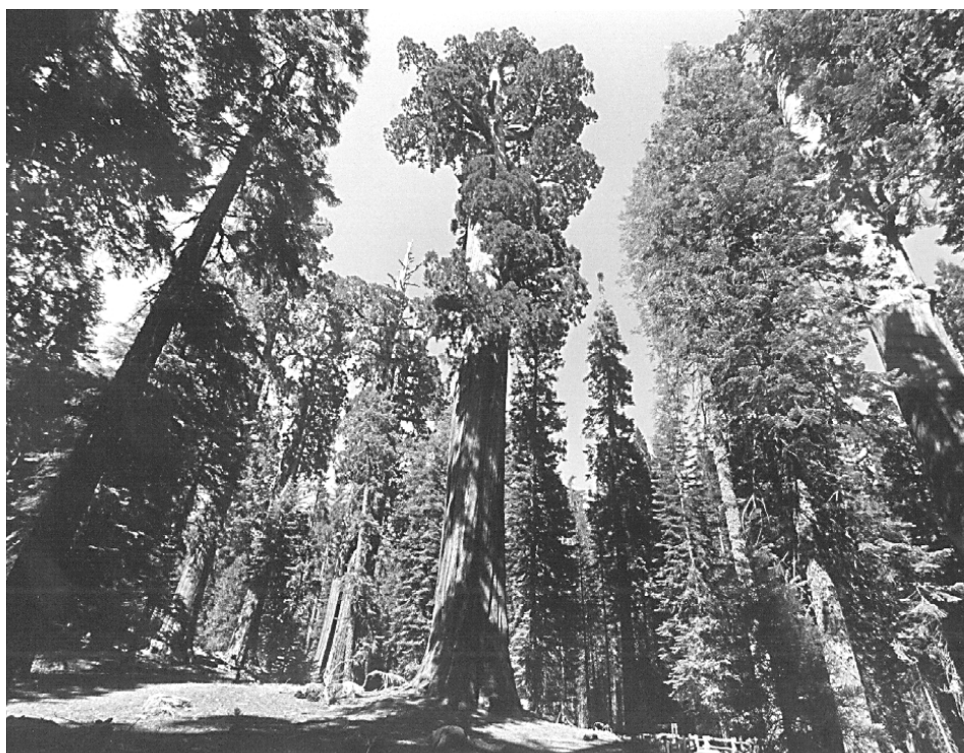


Highlights

KINGS CANYON



GRANT GROVE

Before taking to the trail, review safety advice on page 11. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water, and tell someone where you are going.



GENERAL GRANT TREE: One of the world's ten largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926.

It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.48 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP: Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Spectacular vista of the high Sierra. Go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. Trailers and RVs not recommended on this steep, narrow road. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: Begin just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) southeast of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and the high Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON: The world's largest grove of sequoias. Acres of rejuvenating forest resulting from 30 years of prescribed fires show the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (6 miles/9.6 km south of Grant Grove), turn south/west at Redwood Saddle. Go right for 2 miles (3.2 km) on a bumpy dirt road (not plowed).

BIG BALDY: Great views and a look down into Redwood Canyon from this ridge. The trail

winds 2 miles (3.2 km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502 m). From Grant Grove, drive 8 miles (13 km) south on the Generals Highway to Big Baldy Trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183 m); round trip 4 miles (6.4 km).

KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK:

For a view to the northeast of the high Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove.

REDWOOD CANYON OVERLOOK:

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this looks west over one of the world's largest groves of sequoias. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoias.



KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Take the time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge.

CANYON VIEW: The "U" shape of Kings Canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village turnoff.

KNAPP'S CABIN: During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady five-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village turnoff. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. Park at trailhead 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village turnoff. Purchase a trail guide at the trailhead or visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

ROAD'S END: Here where pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra.

TAKE TIME FOR A HIKE

MIST FALLS: Follow the river through forest to one of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; a 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End, 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km) east of the Village turnoff.

DON CECIL TRAIL: Once the main route to Cedar Grove prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180, this trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village. It climbs the north-facing slope, passing Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) and affording good views. Lookout Peak (a 13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) provides an incredible panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it switches up through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook with gorgeous views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Allow 3 to 4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore the Giant Sequoia National Monument within the Sequoia National Forest.

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 6 miles (9.6 km), then left on the graded dirt road. Ask a ranger for details.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water for a flume that floated lumber to Sanger, 67 miles (108 km) below. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail encircles it. See page 7 for other recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road via Forest Road 13504.

